Minimum support price for tobacco

493. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA:
DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to increase the minimum support price of tobacco as demanded by farmers;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) what are Government's views thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) The Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices recommends the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for tobacco every year, after taking into account the views of the tobacco farmers and the Central Tobacco Research Institute. It is in the process of formulating its recommendations on MSP for the khariff season 2002-2003.

(b) and (c) In view of the above, does not arise.

Representation on FDI in retail trade

494. SHRI. AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU):
SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received representations from Trade Associations, opposing Government's proposal to allow Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in retail trade;

(b) if so, the grounds adduced by them against the proposal and Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether any Committee was constituted to go into the question of permitting FDI in retail trade; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the recommendations made by it indicating Government decision thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) and (b) Representations have been received from some Trade Associations against allowing Foreign Direct Investment in retail trade, stating it will have an adverse impact on local retail trade industry. As per the extant policy, FDI is not permitted in the retail sector.